

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 7, 2005

CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES COUNCIL ON PSA SYSTEM

In testimony this past week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey updated members and staff on the progress of community policing since the MPDC realigned its Police Service Area (PSA) and district boundaries in April 2004. Following an extensive period of community dialogue, the Department reduced the total number of PSAs from 83 to 45 and united communities within the same PSAs and districts. Ramsey said the goal of the realignment was to enhance community policing and reduce crime by giving district commanders greater flexibility in managing their resources. Citing a number of key indicators, the Chief said the realignment appears to be meeting its primary goals. Response times for Priority One calls has been reduced from about 8.2 minutes to 7.8 minutes from the time of dispatch to an officer's arrival on the scene. The level of "PSA Integrity" – or the time that officers spend on their assigned PSA, as opposed to answering calls on another PSA – has also improved. Prior to the realignment, approximately 58 percent of all dispatches were to units outside of their assigned PSA; since the realignment, that percentage has been reduced to about 36 percent. Coordination with other government agencies, in areas such as "hot spots," has improved as well. Finally, the Chief reported that in the 12 months immediately following implementation of the new boundaries, serious crime declined by more than 14 percent citywide, and this trend has continued in recent months as well. "The PSA realignment is not the only factor behind the downward trend in crime. But I firmly believe that the realignment put us in a stronger position to fight crime in our communities, and we have worked hard to take full advantage of that opportunity," Ramsey said.

- ① Read his full statement before the Committee at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,558239,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp
- ① The MPDC completed a one-year evaluation of the new PSA boundaries last spring. View the report at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,A,1246,Q,555621.asp>
- ① To find out what police district and PSA you live in, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_j.asp

REPORTED CRIME UP SLIGHTLY IN SEPTEMBER; STILL DOWN 9 PERCENT FOR THE YEAR

For the first time this year, the monthly number of serious crimes reported in DC increased slightly in September, although crime is still down by almost 9 percent year-to-date. Preliminary statistics show that last month's 1.7 percent increase was largely driven by a 33 percent increase in reported robberies, from 307 in September 2004 to 410 last month. Through the first nine months of 2005, robbery is the only crime that is trending higher in DC, with a 1 percent rise for the year. Stolen autos and thefts also increased during September, but by much lower percentages. Among other crime types, there were significant reductions last month in homicides (-30%), sexual assaults (-20%) and burglaries (-13%). Crime decreased last month in four of the seven police districts. Through the first nine months of the year, the preliminary data show an 8.7 percent decrease in serious crimes. This trend includes reductions in arson offenses (-37%), stolen autos (-18%), burglaries (-16%) and sexual assaults (-15%). Homicides are down almost 5 percent for the year, after declining 20 percent in 2004.

- ① View the latest preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>
- ① For tips on how to reduce your risk of being a victim of robbery or assault, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547781,mpdcNav_GID,1551.asp

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when various activities were conducted at the local, state and national levels. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. And since 1989, Domestic Violence Awareness Month commemorative legislation has been passed by Congress, and this year is no exception. The MPDC takes very seriously the problem of domestic violence in our city. The Department created the Domestic Violence Unit to serve as a liaison among the MPDC, the US Attorney's Office, other law enforcement agencies, victim service agencies and advocates, and the community. In addition to conducting ongoing community outreach and education, the unit helps to supervise Domestic Violence Investigators assigned to each of the seven police districts and officers who work in DC's Domestic Violence Intake Centers. The Domestic Violence Unit also provides training for MPDC officers and investigators.

LATEST USE OF FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED

The MPDC's Force Investigation Team has released its latest quarterly report on use of force by members of the MPDC, with statistics through June 30, 2005. The report shows that, compared with the first six months of 2004, the total number of intentional firearm discharges by officers at people has declined from 16 to 9. The number of fatalities, however, increased from 1 to 4. There were also declines in both overall firearm discharges (from 22 to 19) and total rounds fired (from 103 to 83). There was a total of 43 firearm discharges in 2004, compared with 47 in 2003 and 91 in 1997 (the earliest year for which comprehensive data are available). Among less-than-lethal uses of force, there were 104 cases involving MPDC members during the first six months of this year; these include uses of ASP batons, OC spray, canine bites and other uses of hands. By comparison, there were 63 cases in the first half of 2004.

NEWS & NOTES

Millions More March. The MPDC will deploy some additional resources to support the Millions More March and related events on the weekend of October 14-16, 2005. In addition to providing officers to assist with crowd management and traffic control, the MPDC will also be activating its network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras.

Public Safety Town Hall Meetings. At-Large Councilmember Phil Mendelson, chair of the Judiciary Committee, is holding a second round of public safety town hall meetings in all seven police districts. For information about the dates, times and locations of the town hall meetings in your police district, contact the Councilmember's office at (202) 724-8064.

"Ask the Chief" on WTOP. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails during his monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on WTOP radio, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, from 10-11 am. (Note that this is a rescheduled show from the Chief's usual, first Thursday of the month time slot.)

- ① For more information, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,541110,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|31417|.asp
- ① For a list of domestic violence resources in DC, visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,541124,mpdcNav_GID,1557,asp
- ① Learn more about the national observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month at:
http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth_134.html

- ① View the complete report online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,A,1246,Q,555677.asp>
- ① The detailed reporting on use of force is part of the 2001 Memorandum of Agreement the MPDC signed with the US Justice Department. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548656,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/7/05
◆ 2005: 146	
◆ 2004: 153	
◆ % Change: -4.6%	
◆ Closure Rate: 56.2% (82 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 10/1/05
◆ Total: 1,236	
◆ Drugs: 140	
◆ Weapons: 14	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 24	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 10/1/05
◆ Arrests: 66	
◆ Curfew Violations: 30	
◆ Truants: 64	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/5/05
◆ October: 18	
◆ September: 177	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,808	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/7/05
◆ 2005: 37	
◆ 2004: 38	
◆ % Change: -2.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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